Dody Goodman

# MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN

EPISODE #23

by JERRY ADELMAN

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY		•	•	•		•	•			•				LOUISE LASSER
														GREG MULLAVEY
CHARLIE .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	GRAHAM JARVIS
														MARY KAY PLACE
														BRUCE SOLOMON
BLANCHE .														
														NORMAN ALDEN
VASSAR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	
MERLE	•	•	•	•			•							

# SETS

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# ROADSIDE - FOLLOWING END OF EPISODE #22

(VASSAR IS HOLDING LORETTA AT GUN-POINT. MERLE IS HOLDING CHARLIE AT GUNPOINT. THROUGH THE FOLLOWING, LORETTA IS, OF COURSE, TERRIFIED, AND CHARLIE IS UTTERLY DESPERATE. BUT EACH IS HELPLESS, AS:)

### VASSAR

(TO LORETTA) All right, little lady.

Let's you and me stroll over into those woods yonder.

# VASSAR (CONT'D)

I know you're anxious to get on with your trip, so let's get this over with and done. You're missing the best part of the day for driving.

(TAKES LORETTA'S ARM)

CHARLIE

(LUNGING TOWARD VASSAR) Take your hands off her!

MERLE NEATLY POPS CHARLIE ON THE NOGGIN WITH HIS GUN. CHARLIE, STUNNED, STAGGERS.

### MERLE

Sorry about that, but Vassar's my best friend, and I can't have you menacing him.

### LORETTA

(EYES TO HEAVEN) You shouldn't have made me pretty, Lord. That only leads to woe.

VASSAR

(PRICKS UP HIS EARS) What'd you say? Say that again?

LORETTA

I said, "You shouldn't have made me pretty, Lord. That only leads to woe."

It's a country-western song.

VASSAR

 $\underline{\underline{I}}$  know that. It's one of my favorites. How come you know that song?

LORETTA

I'm a country western singer.

VASSAR

On the level?

LORETTA

I'm on my way to Nashville to become a superstar.

VASSAR

(TO MERLE) How about that? (TO LORETTA) You going to talk to all those big shots and all in Nashville?

LORETTA

I sure am.

VASSAR

Well, what do you know about that?  $\underline{I}$  wrote a song that could get to be number one with a bullet if I could just get one of those big shots to hear it. Maybe you could sing it to 'em for me.

### LORETTA

Well, yeah, if it's good. I'm very particular about my material.

VASSAR

Oh, it's good. You want to hear it?

Sure. Go ahead.

VASSAR

(CLEARS HIS THROAT, THEN STARTS TO SING)
"Oh, the pore lit-tul girrul was ranned
over..." It's kind of a sad song but
with a moral.

LORETTA

They're the best kind.

VASSAR

Okay, I'll start again. "Oh, the pore lit-tul girrul was ranned over..." It sounds better with a guitar.

LORETTA

Wait a minute. (GETS GUITAR OUT OF CAR)
All right, let's try it.

VASSAR

(SINGS TO LORETTA'S STRUMMED ACCOMPANIMENT)
"Oh, the pore lit-til girrul was ranned over
And she lay there in her bloo-ood.
And she said to her mo-other standing there,
Let this be understud.

(MORE)

# VASSAR (CONT'D)

"Oh, mother, dear mother, please promise me
That when you cross the stree-eet,
You'll look up 'n down so you'll never lay
Like me with broken feet." Well, what
do you think? Great, huh? Great? Just
great? Sure-fire?

LORETTA

I like it.

VASSAR

Then you'll sing it for the big shots?

LORETTA

Sure thing.

VASSAR

There's six more verses. I'll sing 'em for you later.

LORETTA

All right.

VASSAR

Well, come on, Merle, don't just stand there. We've got to help these fine people get their car going. They're never gonna get to Nashville with a fouled-up radiator.

FADE OUT.

# ACT TWO

# POLICE STATION - SIMULTANEOUS

FOLEY, SOLO, ON DUTY. MOMENT. MARY COMES IN.

FOLEY

(BIG SMILE) Hi, Mary.

MARY

(SMILE) Hello, Dennis.

FOLEY

You left one of your shoes at my apartment yesterday.

MARY

Yes, I noticed when I got home.

FOLEY

I hope it didn't cause any trouble with your husband.

MARY

Well, he asked some embarrassing questions.

FOLEY

Like what?

MARY

"Where's your shoe?"

FOLEY

I'm sorry about that... I would have brought the shoe to work with me today if I'd known you were coming by.

I didn't know I was coming by until I got this. (GETS DOCUMENT OUT OF HER PURSE)

FOLEY

(CASUAL) Oh, that's just a summons for you to appear at Davey Jessop's preliminary hearing. He's been captured, you know, and you're going to have to testify.

MARY

(TROUBLED) Against him?

FOLEY

Well, sure.

MARY

Oh, dear. I suppose it's my duty as a citizen? But poor Davey.

FOLEY

Mary, he's a mass murderer. He murdered the entire Lombardi family plus their two goats and eight chickens.

MARY

I know, but aside from that, he's such a nice boy. I wish there was something I could do for him.

FOLEY

You're just too kind-hearted.

MARY

Don't you believe people should help people when people are in trouble.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

There's been so much tragedy in our neighborhood. So many people I should really try to do something for. I'd really like to do something for the Lombardis, except that there aren't any Lombardis left to do anything for. (SIGHS)

FOLEY

Let's talk about happier things.

MARY

Think of one.

FOLEY

Like when are you coming back to my apartment to get your shoe?

MARY

Oh.

FOLEY

I would like to see you again.

MARY

(SO LOOK AT ME) Here I am.

FOLEY

I mean alone.

MARY

Are there other people in the room with us now that I'm not aware of?

FOLEY

No -- I just meant alone in private.

MARY

Well -- I'm a little confused about that.

FOLEY

Why? Wouldn't you like to see me again?

Alone? In private?

MARY

Yes, I would, but that's what's confusing.

You see -- right now, I'm having certain

upsetting marital difficulties.

We're not being bugged now, are we?

FOLEY

No.

MARY

I just thought, this being a police ...

I don't think I should see you while

I'm having marital difficulties because
the difficulties are upsetting me
emotionally. And I read an article in
the National Enquirer that said people
with emotional difficulties should not
start new personal relationships.

FOLEY

Why not?

MARY

Because it's unfair to all parties involved in the relationship.

FOLEY

I'm not sure I agree with that.

MARY

(YOU HAVE TO AGREE WITH THAT BECAUSE:)
The article was written by an expert.

FOLEY

How do you know he's an expert?

MARY

Oh, I'm sure the magazine wouldn't have printed the article otherwise.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

I mean, do you think I'm going to read an article about human relationships by ... by a butcher?

FOLEY

Right. Or a used car salesman.

MARY

Right. (RECONSIDERS) Well, you see, a used car salesman could be an expert in human relationships. He sells cars to people. He works with people. Butchers work with meat. The people are there -- but the butcher is more concerned actually in the meat itself -- which is actually a lucky thing for us. Because of disease. Cars do not carry disease.

FOLEY

(INTERRUPTS) Let's get back to what you were saying about <u>our</u> relationship, okay?

MARY

All right. Where was I?

FOLEY

Having marital difficulties.

### MARY

Oh. Yes. But when my marital difficulties are straightened out, I'll be all right emotionally. And the article said that then it would be all right to get into new relationships because then I'll be all right emotionally and I'll be able to handle new relationships and make a contribution to them ... of course you do have my shoe.

FOLEY -

You mean it'll be all right for you to see me after you and your husband get your problem solved?

MARY

Yes. Except for one thing.

FOLEY

What?

MARY

It would be a mistake.

FOLEY

Why?

MARY

Because that would lead to another emotional upset and that would make it wrong for me to enter into a new personal relationship. Because I'd be emotionally upset.

FOLEY

(TRYING TO SORT THIS OUT) So you can't see me when you're emotionally upset, and you can't see me when you're not emotionally upset. Is that right?

MARY

Yes.

FOLEY

So what it comes down to is that you don't want to see me again, ever.

MARY

Oh, no. I do want to see you again. It's just that, well, you see there are certain difficulties.

MARY (CONT'D)

I want to live properly and do the right things. But all these emotions and relationships that experts write about are very confusing. Life would really be much simpler without them.

FOLEY

Without emotions and relationships?

MARY

No, without experts... (READY TO LEAVE)
Well, thank you for explaining (INDICATES
SUMMONS) this to me.

FOLEY

Glad to be of help any time.

MARY

Well, goodbye.

FOLEY

Goodbye, Mary.

MARY STARTS TO LEAVE, BUT:

FOLEY (CONT'D)

Mary ...

MARY

What?

FOLEY

When are you coming over for your shoe?

ON MARY AS SHE BEGINS TO REALIZE THAT NOTHING HAS REALLY BEEN RESOLVED.

# FEDDERS' LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

LEROY IS AT THE DESK, DIAGRAMMING BASKETBALL PLAYS. BLANCHE IS DIAL-ING A TELEPHONE NUMBER. SHE WAITS, WAITS. NO ANSWER. HANGS UP)

BLANCHE

No answer. I'll call her later.

LEROY

Who? What were you calling her about?

# BLANCHE

She's going to be a witness at that teen-aged mass-murderer's preliminary hearing, and I've got to tell her some important things to say about sex and all that filth that's destroying the youth of America.

LEROY

At the preliminary hearing?

BLANCHE

I've got to sow my seeds wherever they may take root.

(MORE)

# BLANCHE (CONT'D)

Well, I'll call her later. I've got to get my picket signs ready for the protest march tomorrow.

LEROY

What're you protesting tomorrow?

BLANCHE

Sex education in our schools. All the DIRTY women are going to march.

LEROY

All the dirty women? (SHE SHOWS HIM PICKET SIGN:) D.I.R.T.Y. Don't Instill Randy Thoughts in the Young.

### LEROY (CONT'D)

Something tells me some of my boys are breaking my rule against having intercourse during basketball season.

PAUSE AS HE WORKS ON HIS PLANS AND SHE WORKS ON HER SIGNS.

# SFX: PHONE RINGS

### BLANCHE

(TO PHONE) Hello... Jenny, where are you?... Jenny, I'm your mother: I have a right to know where you are. It's bad enough that you're a runaway hippie without my having to worry about what you're doing... Jenny, how could you do this to me?

### LEROY

(WHO HAS BEEN LISTENING, NOW STICKS IN HIS TWO CENTS WORTH) And to me.

### BLANCHE

(IGNORING LEROY; TO PHONE) Don't tell
me you want to lead your own life! What
do you know about leading a life? If you
knew anything about leading a life, you
never would have run away. We always
loved you, Jenny. You had a good home.
We did everything we could for you. We
gave you the strongest moral guidance any
girl could ask for... Stifling you???

· (MORE)

# BLANCHE (CONT'D)

How can you say that? (IS HUNG UP ON. HANGS UP) How could this awful thing have happened to me?

### LEROY

Don't you think <u>I</u> feel bad about it, too?

How do you suppose it makes me feel when

I talk to the Rotary Club about handling
today's kids? It destroys my credibility.

### BLANCHE

(IGNORING HIS FEELINGS) Oh, how I worked and slaved for that child.

Children might be a little more grateful if they knew what a woman has to go through to have a child. And that's to say nothing of the horror a woman has to go through just to become pregnant.

FADE OUT.

# MARY'S KITCHEN - EVENING

THE KITCHEN CLOCK SHOWS THAT IT IS ONE MINUTE BEFORE SEVEN. ANGLE NOW ON MARY:

### MARY

I never wanted this marriage from the start. It was wrong. It is wrong.

You can have Heather -- she'll get over

11. (BEAT) No, that's no good -
he'll believe me.

ANOTHER ANGLE SHOWS THAT MARY IS ALONE AND MERELY REHEARSING.

MARY (CONT'D)

(ANOTHER RUN-THROUGH) I've always wanted
this marriage -- from the start. It
was right. It is right. We're a
wonderful family and no matter what happens,
I get Heather. (BEAT) Better. Less
true -- but better. (SHE GLANCES AT
THE CLOCK) All right, it's seven
o'clock. You said you wanted to talk
about our problem. All right, go ahead, talk.

THE CLOCK HITS SEVEN AND TOM COMES BUSTING IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR, CARRYING HIS LUNCHBOX. HE'S LOADED FOR BEAR)

TOM

(ENTERING) All right, you said you wanted to talk. Go ahead, talk.

REV. 1/5

I thought you wanted to talk.

TOM

You said you wanted to talk.

MARY

You go first.

MOT

Ladies first.

FROM HERE ON IN, THINGS GET IN-CREASINGLY LOUDER, NERVES ARE INCREASINGLY FRAYED, AND LOGIC IS INCREASINGLY TORTURED.

MARY -

All right, all right, all right. It's been eight weeks since you made love to me. I want to know why. I mean, Tom, it's been eight weeks.

MOT

(INTERRUPTS) Mary, don't keep score.

This isn't a football game.

MARY

You said you wanted me to talk.

MOT

Yes, but ...

MARY

Then don't interrupt me.

MOT

All right, go ahead. What do you want to say?

MARY

I want to say that I want to know why
you haven't made love to me for eight
weeks and three days. I'm trying to be
as adult about this as I know how. Is
it really that you're not in the
mood or do you find me repulsive? Don't
you love me?

MOT

Don't be ridiculous. Of course I love you.

MARY

Then why haven't you made love to me? Why?

MOT

I don't know. There's just something in this house.

MARY

What do you mean -- an odor?

TOM

No -- that's not what I'm talking about.

MARY

Then what are you talking about?

TOM

A pressure. There's a pressure in this house.

MARY

What kind of a pressure?

MOT

A pressure.

MARY

All right, so there's a pressure. But that's now. What about then?

TOM

When?

MARY

Eight weeks

ago. There

couldn't have been any pressure then.

Maybe there was. Maybe that's when you started to talk about it. Maybe that's when the pressure started to build.

MARY

Why are we talking about pressure? I thought you wanted to talk about our problem.

TOM

That is the problem.

MARY

For you maybe. Not for me. I love you. I love you right now the way I loved you from the very beginning. I love the way you walk, I love the way you smile, I love you, Tom, and I don't necessarily mean only for sex — I mean for love — for you to hold me and comfort me and make me feel safe. Oh, Tom, I miss you so much. I love you. Maybe the honest truth is that you don't love me.

MOT

I love you, I love you!
Can't you get that through your head???

MARY

Then why don't you want to make love to me?

REV. 1/5

What's that got to do with anything?
You want to know if I love you? All
right, I'm standing right here, right
in front of you, and I'm telling you
I love you. Just as much as you love
me. If you love me.

MARY

What do you mean, "if I love you"?
I do love you.

TOM

Okay, okay. And I'm saying I love you.

MARY

Then why don't you show me. You tell me -- but I don't see it ... I don't feel it.

Mary, is going to bed the only demonstration? Why don't you take a look at what happens in this house every day. Every single day. I have my breakfast, I put on my cap, I take my lucnhbox, I kiss you goodbye, and I go to work. Every single day.

MARY

(QUICKLY) Well, except Saturday and Sunday.

TOM

There you go, keeping score again.

MARY

I'm sorry. I don't really know ... what are you talking about ... I don't understand what that has to do with --

TOM

(INTERRUPTING)
All right, but the thing is: what do
I do every single night?

MARY

I feel you avoid me.

TOM

That's not what I meant.

MARY

I thought that's what we were talking about.

MOT

What I'm talking about is where do I go every single night after work? Do I go to another house? Do you realize that there are over forty-two thousand other houses in this town? Do I go to any of them?

MARY

That's not the point.

TOM

Mary, do I go to any one of them?

MARY

Yes! You did once.

MOT

That's unfair.

MARY

Was it fair of you to go to that other house that night? She's an awfully tall person, Tom.

MOT

Let's get back to the point. Which is that going to bed isn't the only way to prove love.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

The point is that I prove my love every single day by giving you my whole life.

MARY

I give you my whole life, and I still want you in bed.

TOM THROWS UP HIS HANDS AND PACES A FEW AGITATED STEPS AWAY.

MARY (CONT'D)

Tom -- I love you and you're still not telling me what's wrong.

TOM STOPS PACING.

MOT

Mary, if you love me, how can you keep putting me through all this hell!!

MARY

(STUNNED) What are you talking about?

I'm talking about if you loved me, how could you drive me crazy like this?
But that's it, isn't it? You don't love me!

MARY

Wha . . . ??

MOT

You don't love me, Mary.

MARY

Tom, please, I do. You're twisting everything!

Then why aren't I happy? If you love me, why?

MARY

Tom -- do you think I'm happy? How do you think all this has made me feel?

I want to die.

TOM

Well -- so do I:

MARY

Tom -- please don't want to die. I want you to be happy. I love you.

MOT

And I love you, too, dammit:

MARY

Then what's the problem?

TOM

I don't know what it is. All I know is that I'm not going to accept that this is just my problem.

MARY

But it is your problem. Unless you tell me what's wrong with me, it's your problem.

MOT

No, it's not!

MARY

Yes, it is!! No, it's not. You're right -it's gotta be my fault, too. But I
swear, Tom, I don't know what I am doing
wrong ... Okay, what's wrong with us?

MOT

All right, you want to know what's wrong with you? This is what's wrong with you.

MARY

What?

TOM

Yelling at me like that. Threatening me like that.

MARY

I'm not threatening you.

TOM

Oh, yes, you are, Mary. The way you're talking, our marriage is ready to bust up, and that's a threat. You've never yelled the way you've been yelling right here tonight and that's a threat.

MARY

Tom, you're driving me crazy!

You think I'm too aggressive -- is
that it?

TOM

Yes -- you're too aggressive and you're too passive.

MARY

Now?

TOM

Always.

MARY

Tom, we've been standing here for what? (LOOKS AT CLOCK) two minutes and forty seconds and we're going in circles. I only asked you plain and simple what's wrong with us -- why you don't want to make love any more?

MOT

How can a man make love to a woman in a situation like this??

REV. 1/5

I'm not talking about now! I'm talking about eight weeks ago!

Tom, it's humiliating to have to keep bringing up how you don't want me -- what did I do?

TOM

How can you talk about eight weeks ago when here we are now???

MARY

Where are we now? You're twisting words again! The only reason I menthioned eight weeks and three days is because that's how long I've been waiting! Patiently!!!

Tom, I can't take this -- this is like a nightmare!

TOM

Look at you. Look at you. Your arms are waving. Your voice is screeching. Your eyes are out like this. And you say make love to that?? You want me to make love to that??

MARY

Oh, so that's it. Now I'm a "that". What about eight weeks ago, Tom?

TOM

I didn't say that.

MARY

Yes, you did. You said, "I don't want to make love to that."

TOM

But that's not all I said.

MARY

But you ended up calling me\_a
"that": A "that": I can't believe it:

TOM

That's because that's what you're behaving like. A that.

MARY

Now maybe. But what about eight weeks ago?

MOT

What about eight weeks ago? I'll tell you what about eight weeks ago. If you can be like you are now, you must have been a little bit like that then, and I don't want to make love to even a little bit of that.

(MORE)

# TOM (CONT'D)

And that's the truth. That's it, Mary.

That's it. You must have been a little
bit like that eight weeks ago and that's
where the trouble started. It's logical.

Just think about it. If you're here now,
you must have been over there then.

Right? Okay. In order to get here now,
you had to be there then. I don't want
to make love to that now and I didn't
want to make love to even a little bit
of it then. That's why!

MARY

Are you through?

MOT

Yes.

MARY

Good. Because so am I. And so are we.

TOM

What do you mean?

MARY

I mean it's over, Tom. I've been rejected and humiliated for the last time. How much do you think a person can take? Well, this person can't take any more!

(SHE TURNS AWAY)

HE GRABS HER BY HER TWO BRAIDS AS IF TO FORCE HER TO PAY ATTENTION. HE IS STARING AT HER FACE. THERE IS A BEAT)

### MARY

That's the first time you've touched me

in eight weeks and three days.

A LONG BEAT. HE KISSES HER WITH MUCH EMOTION. SHE RETURNS THE KISS WITH MUCH EMOTION. THIS IS THE MOST PASSIONATE EMBRACE IN WHICH WE HAVE EVER SEEN THEM. THIS IS THE REAL THING, FOLK. HE PICKS HER UP AND EXITS WITH HER TO THE LIVING ROOM.

FADE OUT.

# ACT FIVE

# INT. HAGGERS CAR - SIMULTANEOUS (NIGHT)

CHARLIE DRIVING, LORETTA PASSENGER. OCCASIONAL LIGHTS FROM CARS PASSING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

CHARLIE

You all right, Honey?

LORETTA

I'm just peachy fine, Baby Boy.

CHARLIE

You sure you want to drive all night?

LORETTA

We got to make up for all that time we lost. Lord, here it is nighttime, and we're just a couple of bitty miles outside of Fernwood.

CHARLIE

Wouldn't you like to stop at a motel?

LORETTA

If anybody ever told me I'd say no to going to a motel with you, I'd have told them they were crazy as a two-headed loony bird. (PECKS HIM A LITTLE KISS)

(MORE)

# LORETTA (CONT'D)

But we've just got to control ourselves and think about my career. We'll have plenty of time for motels after we sign our million dollar contracts in Nashville.

(SHE MOVES OVER AND LOVINGLY PUTS HER LEFT ARM THROUGH HIS RIGHT) It is nice to think about being in a motel with you, though. It makes me feel all goodle-e-gook and scootchy. It's almost as good as being in a motel.

### CHARLIE

(SMILES) Almost but not quite. Like they say, there is no substitute for the re-al thing.

LORETTA GIGGLES AND SQUEEZES HIS ARM.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Watch it, honey, or you'll have us landing in a ditch.

THEY DRIVE ALONG IN SILENCE FOR A WHILE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you really gonna try to sell that guy's song for him when we get to Nashville?

LORETTA

Sure.

### CHARLIE

After what he had in mind to do to you?

### LORETTA

Charlie, it's a great song. The man's an artist. And artists aren't like other people. We think different.

### CHARLIE

I don't like what  $\underline{he}$  was thinking. I'm no artist but  $\underline{I}$  got sensitive feelings, too, and just recalling what he almost did to you makes me feel like throwing up all over this steering wheel.

# LORETTA

(COMFORTING HIM) Baby Boy, just think of it as an experience. We artists have to have experiences. That's how we get our inspiration. I've been working in the back of my head on a song about that experience. I've got the first few lines already. "My love can have my body.

I'm glad he finds it fun.

But no one else can touch it
Unless they've got a gun".

### CHARLIE

(THINKS IT OVER CRITICALLY BEFORE:) I like it. It's got a nice beat.

THEY DRIVE ALONG IN SILENCE FOR A WHILE.

### CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Honey, you sure you're not tired?

(MORE)

# CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Maybe you ought to crawl in the back seat and catch a little shut-eye. I mean you being pregnant and all.

### LORETTA

Stop babying me, Baby Boy. Save that for the baby.

### CHARLIE

I swear, Loretta, you <u>are</u> an artist. You even <u>talk</u> in poetry... You sure you wouldn't like to take a little nap?

### LORETTA

Well, not in the back seat. That's too far away from you. (PECKS HIM A LITTLE KISS) But maybe I'll just close my eyes for a bitty while.

SHE SNUGGLES UP, PUTS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER, CLOSES HER EYES. HE SMILES WITH PLEASURE. THEY DRIVE ALONG FOR A WHILE, ALL QUIET AND LOVEY. THEN, AS HE IS TURNING THE WHEEL TO ACCOMODATE TO A CURVE IN THE ROAD, ONCOMING HEADLIGHTS FLASH SQUARE IN HIS EYES. HE JERKS THE WHEEL TO THE RIGHT -- BUT TOO LATE. THERE IS A SQUEAL OF BRAKES, A SCREAM, AND THE SCREEN GOES TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.